

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A recombinant nucleic acid molecule that encodes a fusion polypeptide, the recombinant nucleic acid molecule comprising a Ra12 polynucleotide sequence and a ~~heterologous~~ non-*Mycobacterium tuberculosis* polynucleotide sequence, wherein the Ra12 polynucleotide sequence ~~encodes a Ra12 polypeptide consisting~~ consists of the sequence set forth in ~~SEQ ID NO:3~~ SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:17, or SEQ ID NO:18.

2. (Currently amended) The recombinant nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, wherein the Ra12 polynucleotide sequence is located 5' to the ~~heterologous non-~~ *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* polynucleotide sequence.

3. (Currently amended) The recombinant nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, the recombinant nucleic acid molecule further comprising a polynucleotide sequence that encodes a linker peptide between the Ra12 polynucleotide sequence and the ~~heterologous non-~~ *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* polynucleotide sequence.

4. (Previously presented) The recombinant nucleic acid molecule according to claim 3, wherein the linker peptide comprises a cleavage site.

5. (Previously presented) The recombinant nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, wherein the fusion polypeptide further comprises an affinity tag which is linked to the fusion polypeptide.

6. (Currently amended) The recombinant nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, wherein the ~~heterologous non-~~ *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* nucleic acid sequence encodes a ~~DPPD~~, a WT1, or a mammaglobin, ~~or a H9-32A~~ polypeptide.

7-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) A recombinant nucleic acid molecule that encodes a fusion polypeptide, the recombinant nucleic acid molecule comprising a Ra12 polynucleotide sequence and a ~~heterologous~~ non-*Mycobacterium tuberculosis* polynucleotide sequence, wherein the Ra12 polynucleotide sequence encodes a Ra12 polypeptide consisting of the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:17.

11. (Currently amended) A recombinant nucleic acid molecule that encodes a fusion polypeptide, the recombinant nucleic acid molecule comprising a Ra12 polynucleotide sequence and a ~~heterologous~~ non-*Mycobacterium tuberculosis* polynucleotide sequence, wherein the Ra12 polynucleotide sequence encodes a Ra12 polypeptide consisting of the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:18.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) A recombinant nucleic acid molecule that encodes a fusion polypeptide, the recombinant nucleic acid molecule comprising a Ra12 polynucleotide sequence and a ~~heterologous~~ non-*Mycobacterium tuberculosis* polynucleotide sequence, wherein the Ra12 polynucleotide sequence encodes a Ra12 polypeptide consisting of the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:4.

14. (Previously presented) An expression vector comprising a promoter operably linked to a recombinant nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1.

15. (Previously presented) A host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector according to claim 14.

16. (Previously presented) The host cell according to claim 15, wherein the host cell is *E. coli*.

17-26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently amended) A method of producing a fusion polypeptide, the method comprising expressing in a host cell a recombinant nucleic acid molecule that encodes a fusion polypeptide, the fusion polypeptide comprising a Ra12 polypeptide and a ~~heterologous~~ non-*Mycobacterium tuberculosis* polypeptide, wherein the Ra12 polypeptide is ~~encoded by a Ra12 polynucleotide sequence~~ that consists of the sequence set forth in ~~SEQ ID NO:3~~ SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:17, or SEQ ID NO:18.

28. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 27, wherein the fusion polypeptide further comprises an affinity tag which is linked to the fusion polypeptide.

29. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 27, wherein the fusion polypeptide is purified from the host cell.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 27, wherein the host cell is *E. coli*.

32. (New) The recombinant nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, wherein the Ra12 polynucleotide sequence consists of the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

33. (New) The recombinant nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, wherein the non-*Mycobacterium tuberculosis* polynucleotide sequence is a eukaryotic polynucleotide sequence.

34. (New) The method according to claim 27, wherein the Ra12 polypeptide is encoded by a Ra12 polynucleotide sequence consisting of the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

35. (New) The method according to claim 27, wherein the non-*Mycobacterium tuberculosis* polypeptide is a eukaryotic polypeptide.

36. (New) The method according to claim 27, wherein the Ra12 polypeptide consists of the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:4.

37. (New) The method according to claim 27, wherein the Ra12 polypeptide consists of the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:17.

38. (New) The method according to claim 27, wherein the Ra12 polypeptide sequence consists of the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:18.